

## FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Queen Victoria has twenty-two grand-children.

Baron Nordenskiöld will start this spring on a new Arctic expedition up the eastern coast of Greenland, a direction in which few attempts have hitherto been made.

In London, Mrs. Murphy, drunkenly engaged in household pursuits, fell and her head striking a tin saucepan, just filled the utensil and fisted so closely that she could not remove it; and she died of suffocation.

The recent death of Matilda, Diez, the greatest actress Spain ever produced, caused general mourning in that country, her funeral in Madrid being one of great public demonstration. She was born in 1818, and was known as the Rachel of Spain.

When Dr. Wecker, the celebrated German oculist, removed Gambetta's right eye in 1871, the organ was preserved in spirits. "It is the eye," the surgeon said, "of a man who is sure to enact an important part in the world's history." He was right, and the eye is still preserved.

Dr. Ball, in a lecture before the Paris Faculty of Medicine, said, "there is a broad frontier between folly and reason, between sanity and insanity, peopled by millions of inhabitants." He held that the number of persons perfectly reasonable on all points throughout the entire period of their existence formed but a minority of mankind.

In the southern portion of the country drained by the River Congo, in Africa, there has been found by Lieutenant Wissman a very dense population. During his journey from Loanda to Zanzibar this traveler does not seem to have met with any serious obstacles. On the contrary, the noted Mirambo gave him every assistance. At one portion of his route he found a tribe of dwarf negroes.

A church in the village of Cesano, near Albenga, Italy, was robbed. The authorities searched the stable of a suspected man. They found a subterranean apartment. The entrance was hidden by straw. A poor woman, thirty years old, entirely nude, was the only occupant. She had been there thirteen years, fed on swill and acorns. Her reason was gone, and she was speechless. She was removed to an hospital, and her father was placed under arrest.

The physicians in one of the hospitals of Vienna have made the remarkable discovery, in dissecting the body of a patient, that he had carried about in his brain an iron nail covered with rust, that to all appearances must have held its singular lodgment since early childhood. The man was forty-five years of age, a bookbinder, and always passed for a thoroughly intelligent person. The nail in his brain did not seem to effect his mental powers in any particular. There is probably no case on record to parallel this.

When Wagner first went to Paris, in 1840, the celebrated musician Liszt was the idol of the public, the pet of society, shining in the meridian splendor of his unparalleled career. It is not surprising that Wagner, looking up to him from the abasement of poverty, should have turned bitter and resentful, and fancied that Liszt disliked him, when Liszt was only unaware of his existence. Afterward Wagner learned how completely he had misunderstood the great and generous artist, and a friendship grew up between them which was never broken. Twenty years later Wagner married Liszt's daughter.

## Eclipses of the Sun.

Recently Professor Langley lectured in the Lowell Institute course, Boston, upon the corona as seen in total eclipses of the sun. He remarked that the very brightness of the sun prevents us from seeing many things that are going on near to its surface. All lesser lights, which, if seen, would fascinate us with their strange beauty, are extinguished in its presence.

After day the sun shrouds from us its stars, and but for its withdrawal below our horizon we should not know of their existence. The illumination of the moon and that of the aurora borealis and the zodiacal light in like manner are dissipated by the sunlight. The light of that outer rim of the sun, which is called the chromosphere, is in the same way usually hidden from us. Nor can any device of man so screen and subdue the light of the sun that that of the chromosphere will become visible. Only in the presence of a total eclipse are these phenomena, which are more wonderful and beautiful than any other of the celestial spaces, to be seen.

The duration of visibility then is but two or three minutes. While total eclipses of the sun are not unrequited, but few persons, comparatively, have seen one. The explanation is that the space over or along which a total eclipse is visible is not more than eighty or one hundred miles wide. That which was visible in this country in 1878, passed diagonally across the territory of North America. The shadow entered in Alaska and passed through Texas and across the Gulf of Mexico in two or three hours' time, being visible, at totality, not more than three or four minutes at any point.

The passage over the earth of the swiftest-moving objects with which we are familiar, the most rapid express train, is at a rate of about sixty miles an hour. This shadow moves along at thirty miles an hour. The form which this shadow assumes in space is that of an extremely elongated cone, the base of which corresponds to the diameter of the moon, and the length to the distance between the earth and the moon. Our conception of it must be somewhat different from that which is ordinarily suggested by the word "cone." It is to be imagined rather as having the relative proportions of the finest cambric needle, the point of which barely touches the earth. The vision of this dark shadow, as it approaches from the distance, is a most imposing phenomenon in nature. More terror would doubtless be inspired by an earthquake, but the sense of awe would be greater in an eclipse. The impression thus produced is felt by all men, and is shared by the more intelligent of the lower animals. A scientist once tried a curious experiment on a dog in this way: Among other preparations for the eclipse, he confined the dog several days beforehand, giving him nothing to eat.

Just as the shadow began to come on he threw down before the dog an appetizing bone, but the animal would not touch it for the space of five minutes or more, or until the darkness had wholly ceased and the sun shone brightly again. When the American observers had, for the eclipse of 1879, negroes living in the vicinity gathered around to witness the show which they had learned was to come off, but the nature of which they did not understand. Surmising it might be something like a circus, they, by a false analogy, thought it would be well to take positions in the branches of some of the neighboring trees. When the appalling shadow came down upon the scene, their fright was excessive, and its effect was described as being audibly like that of the continuous falling of ripe fruit from the trees. They scampered for the safe inclosure of their several homes.

In every company of men, whatever may have been the foregoing hilarity, silence and a feeling akin to terror overcame the gazers as the dark shadow comes down like a material thing moving with swiftness inconceivable over hill and valley from the horizon. A strange light precedes it, which is partly of a greenish tint but wholly unlike any other. The lecturer described the moments of suspense during which men of science await their opportunity as the shadow approaches, which they know will continue but two or three minutes and for which they have spent days and perhaps months of preparation, and which, in most cases, they have traveled hundreds or thousands of miles to witness and record. The feeling must be similar, he said, to that experienced by one who for the first time goes into battle or enters upon any undertaking of great peril. There is an extraordinary tension of the mental faculties, which makes cool observation almost impossible, and it proves that ten or twelve observers viewing the phenomenon from the same point will have as many different descriptions to give of it. Their penciled sketches of what they saw do not agree. The photographic lens, which has no nerves, does better, but it, for reasons which the lecturer explained, fails adequately to represent the wonderful sight. The Boston Advertiser says: The illuminated screen was freely employed for more definite explanation by the lecturer, who, with his photographic assistant, Mr. Black, had contrived a representation of the bursting forth of the light of the corona from behind the dark face of the moon, which was very realistic and which evoked generous applause.—Scientific American.

## The Next European War.

A late number of the *Review* contains an article on "Strategy," which considers the probable aspects of the next war in Europe. The forces engaged in such a war would, he says, be far greater even than those which were brought into the field in 1870. A single army of five corps occupies eight English miles on the battlefield. But the entire force of a great European State now consists of four or five such armies; and the disasters consequent on the collision of two or more such States would naturally be in proportion to their strength—especially as, thanks to the development of the feeling of nationality, wars will in the future be fought not from policy but from national hostility. Armies will assume the character of great popular migrations, and will be numbered not by hundreds of thousands, but by millions of armed men. This will diminish their mobility. Germany will not again find an open country, with excellent roads; and, however excellent her commanders may be, she will not have the chance again of advancing into an enemy's country with such rapidity and success. The characteristics of the wars of the future will be a slow advance, a constant bringing up of reserves, and defeat caused only by complete exhaustion; flank attacks will be made by armies instead of, as in 1870, by brigades or divisions; and the district around a battlefield will be entirely devastated. The feeling of nationality will also make it much more difficult to end a war than formerly. Austria would not venture to take back Lombardy and Venice, even if her victorious armies should penetrate to Naples; and Germany would not have been able in 1870 to annex Burgundy and Champagne, although they were at her mercy.

## An Eastern Lie.

The unbounded West is often accused by the very much bounded East of a slight regard for accuracy in story telling; but it is little to say of the following yarn from the Springfield (Mass.) Republican that it takes the entire bakery, pies and bread as well as cake: That "panther" which has been roaming through the wilds of Southern Worcester for several months, frightening the timid, scaring the bold, and occasionally straying over the line into Rhode Island, is no more. Having lain down for a short time the other morning with Granger Lamb's best merino buck, in Sturbridge, and absorbed unusual vigor thereby, he started out for a trial spin, and, throwing in some of those prodigious leaps for which he has become so well known, found himself toward evening in Mendon, on the opposite side of the county. Farmer A. J. Cass's old mare, lingering in the twilight of a useful life and a pensioner by her kind master's bounty, furnished the most possibilities for a cheap, though tough, rapist. She was enjoying her evening exercise within the barn-yard battlements; the wisdom of her years prevented her accepting the alluring invitation of the panther to take a walk among the scented balsams and rough-grained hackmatacks, so she was led out by one ear, the aesthetic nature of her captor forbidding the organization of a banquet till within the shadows of the fougles. Hardly had the thicket been reached when he laid his victim low with one massive paw and took a bite out of her side. That bloody maul was his last. One of Dolly's ribs, bent nearly double in her murderer's jaws, slid down his throat and opened, hastening the revenge which her indigestible carcass would ultimately have wreaked.

—If people must find fault let them find fault with the weather. Nothing can hurt that.—N. O. Procyune.

## HOME AND FARM.

Sweet apples should be baked slowly to obtain the desirable rich consistency. Eaten with cream they are delectable.

To Remove Kerosene from Marble: Scrape fine some common chalk, cover over the spot about one-fourth of an inch thick, lay over this a piece of brown paper, or a sheet of blotting paper, and set on quite a warm flat-iron, repeat several times and the oil will disappear.—Cincinnati Times.

How to Treat a Rusty Plow: Pour half a pint of sulphuric acid slowly into a quart of water. Wash the iron with it, and when it has evaporated wash again. Then wash with water, apply more acid, and rub the worst spots with a brick. Finally wash thoroughly with water, rub dry, apply kerosene, and store away.—Chicago Herald.

Stewed Beef Steak: Take a large, thick slice of beefsteak, salt and pepper, then spread on dressing of bread prepared as you would to stuff fowls, roll up, and tie to hold together. Fry a slice of pork, take out the pork and put in the beef and fry brown, then add a little water and stew two and one-half hours, or until the beef is tender. Good cold or warm.—The Household.

Mr. G. W. Hollingsworth, Barnegat, N. J., tells the *Poultry* that his chickens, hens, ducks and turkeys are "wonderfully" on all the skinned milk they will drink, and what is left is made into "Dutch cheese" and fed to them, sometimes mixed with potatoes, beets, pumpkins, corn and barley meal.

If any one thinks he can realize a large profit from poultry without first dividing them in such a manner as to avoid crowding he will make a mistake. They will do better in small families than in large flocks, and the few can be kept with greater profit even in a small yard than the more numerous, if the latter have the run of the whole farm.—Farmers' Magazine.

A pretty way to make a border for a patchwork quilt is to piece one narrow strip of straight bits of silk; sew this to the quilt; then put around it a row of blocks matching the center of the quilt, and outside of this put a wide strip similar to the narrow one. The effect is very pretty, and this is a very good way to utilize the strip of silk left that could not be used in the blocks.—Exchange.

The Director of the New York agricultural experiment station says the power in the corn kernel to regenerate after drying enables us to plant more shallow than is sometimes required for the securing of permanent moisture to the seed in the spring. While some corn seed have the power to push up through eight inches of heavy clay soil, yet our results last season showed a quicker vegetation, and, as we imagined, a better stand from seed planted one-fourth of an inch than deeper. Hence it seems quite reasonable that the compacting of a fine soil about the seed should be of more importance than merely the depth of planting.—N. Y. Post.

## Well-Bred Seed Corn.

The great variety of type in ears of our dent corns is a fact that has not escaped the attention of any person engaged in its culture. These varieties are not common to any considerable extent, with the "flint," or smooth varieties. Nearly every type of these varieties is reproduced with great exactness, the ears will grow in the same form, and have the same number of rows, and be of quite similar length, to the ears from which the seed came. The dent varieties on the contrary, by a long course of neglect, and through much admixture of kinds, has in general no fixed type, but is a mongrel composed of many.

To make a thorough improvement, a small piece of land should be planted by itself, so far isolated from other fields as to be beyond reach of being fertilized by anything outside. The seed for this purpose should be selected from the most perfect type of ears that could be found, and if the soil is unusually rich, so much the better. This field ought not to be much less than one fourth of an acre in size, and should receive as good care as the grower could bestow upon it. After the tassels have appeared, they should be closely watched, and before the pollen has matured, every stalk that is at all below a good full size, and every one that is barren of ears, should have the tassels cut off, in order that the pollen from those stalks shall be allowed to fall upon any of the newly-forming ears.

This course will not hinder such stalks from bearing ears of corn as are disposed to; it will only tend to breed out the habit of non-bearing, as well as to secure fertilization from a more healthy stock. The earliest maturing ears, having the highest type of development, should be selected from among those grown in this manner for continuing the experiment the next year, when one step in advance will be achieved. This course followed up for a series of years would result in the development of a set of ears having largely the same type and for the most part the same number of rows, provided always the ears with a given number of rows had been each time selected for seed.

The period of maturity may also be considerably hastened by the selection of the earliest ripening ears for continuing these experiments, which of itself will prove a great achievement.

After the selection of the very best ears for carrying forward the work of improvement for the next year, the seed for the main planting of the farm should be taken. There ought, and doubtless would, be a marked improvement in the size and uniformity of the ears with each successive year of such practice.

The importance of the corn crop in the agriculture of the prairie States has never been overestimated. It must continue to form the basis of the farming system of these States, and deserves a more careful consideration at the hands of those engaged in this pursuit. The average yield per acre for this grain is capable of being largely increased, and it should be done. The lands upon which it is grown are annually becoming of greater value, and to keep pace with this increased value and render the business remunerative heavier crops must be grown.—Burlington Hawkeye.

Some of the newspapers seem to think it wonderful that so many of our millionaires were poor boys. Success in life does not depend upon the starting-point. As in swimming a race it makes little difference at the end whether a man wades in or jumps in, whether he starts from a rock, a bank of sand, or a boat in the stream; so in the battle of life it is not the point of starting, but the direction of the start and the vigor and endurance and good judgment that are brought into play, that bring great results.—Boston Traveler.

A Boston paper talks fiercely about "The Tax on Brains." But what in the name of Cape Cod and Plymouth Rock does a Boston editor know about such a subject? Ministers and Salem witches defend us when the Hub forgets its "culchaw" and runs after such strange gods as "brains."—N. Y. Graphic.

Important Proclamation. The Hon. Peter Bore is Sheriff of the City and County of New York. Recently, in conversation with one of our reporters, Mr. Bore proclaimed the following fact: "I consider St. Jacobs Oil an excellent remedy, and one that ought certainly to find its way into every household. Mrs. Bore always has a bottle of it there, and makes a family remedy of it."—New York Evening Telegram.

"Have you had a job to-day, Tim?" inquired a well-known legal gentleman of the equally well-known, jolly, round-faced old drayman, who, rain or shine, summer or winter, is rarely absent from his post in front of the Michigan Exchange. "Kedad, I did, I did," he said. "Only two, 's'ry." "How much did you get for both?" "Sixty cents, 's'ry." "Seventy cents? How do you expect to live and keep a horse on seventy cents a day?" "Some days I have half a dozen jobs, 's'ry; but business has been dull to-day, 's'ry. On the hauling of a trunk for a gentleman for forty cents, a load of furniture for thirty cents, a big load, 's'ry." "Do you carry big loads of household goods for thirty cents?" "She was a poor widow, 's'ry; and I had no more to give. I took all she had, 's'ry; and I had to go, 's'ry. And old Tim had won the first fair, 's'ry." And old Tim had won the first fair.—Detroit Free Press.

Mr. F. L. CANEY, of Madison, Ind., writes: "I was completely broken up with rheumatism, and was also suffering from indigestion and piles. My aunt, Mrs. Whalen, living in Illinois, advised me to try Dr. Cass's Kidney and Bladder Pills. I did so. I also bathed my joints with vinegar and salt. This treatment relieved me of all suffering."

SINCE the advent of the telephone it is more than ever true that walls have ears.—Detroit Post.

Hold the Fort. J. M. Fort, Monmouth, Ill., writes: Having used SCOTT'S SASSAPARILLA AND STILLINGIA, OF BLOOD AND LIVER SYRUP, according to the directions given, for the purpose of curing and purifying the blood and regulating the liver, and having found the medicine to do all that you claim for it, I cheerfully recommend its use to all persons affected likewise.

SOUTH CAROLINA has a town named Catarrh. Who knew how it got its name?—Boston Transcript.

"Fools take to themselves the respect given to their office." But Kidney-Wort commands respect for its own solid merits, tested, tried and found not wanting in any essential principle required for the cure of dyspepsia, piles, malaria, and all diseases of the kidneys, bowels and liver. Prepare it in dry and liquid form.

The successful grocers have generally started in business on a small scale.—N. O. Picayune.

Curens.—Use "Brown's Bronchial Trochiscs." They possess real merit. Sold only in boxes.

Times must be good in Philadelphia. They are counting money there all the time.

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HOGS—Live.....	7 00
FLOUR—Good to Choice.....	4 00
WHEAT—No. 2 Red.....	1 10
CORN—No. 2 Red.....	67
OATS—Western Mixed.....	45
PORK—New Mess.....	19 20
ST. LOUIS.	
COTTON—Midling.....	40
BEANS—Exports.....	5 75
RAILROADS—Fair to Good.....	5 75
TEXAS STEERS.....	3 75
HOGS—Common to Select.....	5 00
SHEEP—Fair to Choice.....	5 00
FLOUR—XXX to Choice.....	4 25
WHEAT—No. 2 Winter.....	1 01
Do No. 3.....	98
CORN—No. 2 Mixed.....	50
OATS—No. 2.....	40
RAIL—No. 2.....	56
TOBACCO—Large.....	4 00
HAY—Choice Timothy.....	15 00
BUTTER—Choice Dairy.....	26
BROOM-CORN—Prime.....	11
EGGS—Hens.....	18 25
PORK—New Mess.....	19 20
BACON—Clear Rib.....	10
LARD—Prime Steam.....	20
WOOL—Washed, medium.....	30
Unwashed.....	20
CHICAGO.	
CATTLE—Exports.....	6 00
HOGS—Good to Choice.....	6 50
SHEEP—Fair to Choice.....	5 00
FLOUR—Winter.....	4 25
Spring.....	3 50
WHEAT—No. 2.....	1 04
Do No. 2 Red.....	1 06
CORN—No. 2.....	55
OATS—No. 2.....	40
RYE.....	60
PORK—New Mess.....	19 20
KANSAS CITY.	
CATTLE—Native Cows.....	3 50
HOGS—Sales at.....	6 80
WHEAT—No. 2.....	93
Do No. 3.....	87
CORN—No. 2 Mixed.....	40
OATS—No. 2.....	34
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FLOUR—High Grades.....	5 15
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